

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 03778 281855Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OES-07 EB-07 SSO-00
NSCE-00 INRE-00 /102 W
-----281905Z 119307 /40

O 281125Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6932
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE
COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE
EUCOM IMMEDIATE
SECDEF IMMEDIATE
USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 3778

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCUSNAVERU, COMSIXTHFLT, EUCOM, USDOCOSOUTH ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, TS, OY, IT
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN-LIBYAN SHELF DISPUTE: TUNISIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER TALKS TO AMBASSADOR

REF: STATE 123917

1. FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTY CALLED ME THIS MORNING
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SHORTLY BEFORE GOING TO AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF GOT CABINET
TO REPORT THAT AT 0755 TODAY LOCAL TIME TUNISIAN NAVY WITNESSED
LANDING BY LIBYAN HELICOPTER ABOARD "J.W. BATES" OF "SIX
HEAVILY ARMED COMMANDOS". HE BELIEVED USG SHOULD BE INFORMED
AT ONCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT WHICH "CLEARLY CHANGES STATUS OF
US-OWNED DRILLING SHIP TO ONE OF MILITARY STATUS". HE HOPED
OWNERS OF "J.W. BATES" COULD ALSO BE INFORMED PROMPTLY OF

THIS OCCURRENCE. I PROMISED TO RELAY THIS INFORMATION TO WASHINGTON AT ONCE.

2. I TOLD CHATTY I HAD RECEIVED A FIRM RESTATEMENT OF THE USG POSITION REGARDING US SUPPORT FOR INSCRIPTION OF DISPUTE ON SECURITY COUNCIL AGENDA AND PASSED ON REMAINDER OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF STATE TEL. FOREIGN MINISTER APPRECIATIVE OF THIS TIMELY INFORMATION WHICH HE WOULD SHARE IMMEDIATELY WITH PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET. HE BELIEVED HE ALSO MIGHT WISH TO CONTACT ME LATER TODAY. I TOLD HIM I REMAINED AT HIS DISPOSITION.

3. COMMENT: IF PRESENCE OF LIBYAN SOLDIERS ABOARD VESSEL IS UNKNOWN TO READING AND BATES AND THEIR INSTALLATION TOOK PLACE WITHOUT COMPANY'S PRIOR CONSENT, I SUGGEST DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH TO PERSUADE READING AND BATES THAT SAFETY OF PERSONNEL ABOARD HAS BEEN PLACED IN GREATER JEOPARDY BY THIS ACTION AND THAT COMPANY MIGHT WISH TO ASK LIBYANS TO REMOVE THEM SOONEST. A FURTHER THOUGHT FOR DEPARTMENT'S CONSIDERATION: IF WE AGREE THAT PRESENCE OF ARMED TROOPS ABOARD "J.W. BATES" CHANGES LEGAL CHARACTER OF VESSEL WOULD IT NOT BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE TO INFORM PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT OF THIS REPORT AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER PANAMANIAN LAW OR REGULATIONS ARE IN ANY WAY BEING VIOLATED BY THIS ACTION? WE ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT PRESIDENT TORRIJOS HAS BEEN SEEKING FAVORS FROM QADHAFI. MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Retention: 0
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TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, ENRG, MOPS, TS, LY, IT, US, PN, READING & BATES
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